

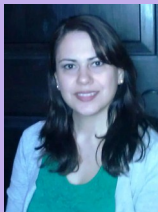
Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

July 9, 2014

Clearly ahead of my time



Our finance director, some of my staff, the City Clerk's office and a certain editorial cartoonist have fits over the fact that I have a flip phone. I just want to lead with this so it's clear that they'll have to eat their words one day when we learn that my approach to technology is way ahead of its time. Bell bottoms will also be back in style, so don't clean out your closet quite yet.



Project Mariposa Update

I'm guessing you never travelled with your kids quite like that. I'm also guessing that you never lived in a place where limbs were cut off if your

kid didn't join a cartel gang at the age of 14, your young daughter was raped if your family came under suspicion of working with the police, you were a young woman who was beaten and abandoned by her husband, and you generally suffered abject poverty on top of all that. If you had, the urge to escape to a better place might make the top of a train appear to be the lesser of two evils.





Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police
Department
911 or 791-4444
nonemergency
Mayor & Council
Comment Line
791-4700
Neighborhood
Resources
791-4605
Park Wise
791-5071
Water Issues
791-3242
Pima County Animal
Control
243-5900
Street Maintenance
791-3154
Planning and
Development
Services 791-5550
Southwest Gas
889-1888
Gas Emergency/
Gas Leaks
889-1888
West Nile Virus
Hotline
243-7999
Environment
Service
791-3171
Graffiti Removal
792-2489
AZ Game & Fish
628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve



CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

We had a good week in terms of moving towards the transition out of the Greyhound station and into a new intake facility. When you're working with partners such as Catholic Community Services and the Jewish Federation, and the



dozens of volunteers who are committed to positively touching the lives of the migrant women and their kids, the work is gratifying. We also gained some new partners last week -



Kelly Fryer and her staff over at the YWCA are working out what their involvement will look like, and we're in touch with a mobile health clinic that's looking at how its staff members can offer some of their professional medical expertise when needed. Also a couple of church groups who dropped in offering assistance. The transition out of Greyhound is a good thing, and these partners are each stepping up and taking on a significant role.

A little background on what 'home' looks like for the many people we're seeing. And by the way, getting up to speed on this doesn't take a ton of time searching databases. It's readily available information, both online, and through the stories of the families we're seeing daily. To qualify for asylum requires fear of persecution upon reintroduction into your homeland due to race, religion, nationality, or being a member of a particular social group (poor/indigenous people - targeted for abuse). I think the people we're seeing qualify for consideration.

Countries from Nicaragua to Guatemala have the highest murder rates in the world. That's according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Data from that office shows Honduras is home to the deadliest city in the world, San Pedro Sula, where 169 out of every 100,000 people are murdered. The highest in the U.S. is Detroit at 54. New Orleans is 53 and Chicago is 18. The murder rate in Guatemala is nearly as bad as Honduras and is getting worse. El Salvador is still ranked fifth globally, according to the latest figures available through the UN. It's also important to note that the smaller population bases make the impact more immediate.

As we're hearing time after time in our interviews at Greyhound, children are among those targeted by narco gangs, along with women and the very poor. According to the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, they're often pressured into service as drug-mules and even assassins. Sexual violence against them is common. Let me take a moment for this 'Breaking News'

JUL 09 2014

Flake Introduces Amendment to Stem Flow of Unaccompanied Minors

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) today introduced legislation that would amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to allow for the expedited removal of unaccompanied minors who have illegally entered the United States. The legislation is cosponsored by U.S. Sens. John McCain (R-AZ), David Vitter (R-LA), Jerry Moran (R-KS), James Inhofe (R-OK), Mark Kirk (R-IL), John Boozeman (R-AR), and Richard Burr (R-NC).

Specifically the legislation would put the treatment of unaccompanied alien children entering the United States from noncontiguous countries, including Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador on par with those entering illegally from Mexico and Canada.

"The federal government will only stem the flow of unaccompanied minors to the United States when their parents see us sending them right back," said Flake. **"This legislation gives the administration the flexibility that it has requested so it can begin to do just that."**

Ok, back to the newsletter. So, to those such as our Senators and members of the Administration who see the solution as simply turning the people around and sending them 'home,' one has to wonder if they've done the least bit of checking into what it is they're fleeing. Send them back to what? Nobody in the Legislature or in the Administration would send their kid into those conditions.



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff
Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congressman
Ron Barber (D)
(2nd District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331
Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators
Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
791-4201

City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

At Greyhound, we're working with a process where one of two people who are involved with Project Mariposa receives a call from Immigration and Customs Enforcement when they're en route to the bus station with families. At that time we're told whether any of them have a bus confirmation number. The confirmation number means a family member has pre-purchased a bus ticket for the travelers and when they arrive at Greyhound we accompany them to the counter where the ticket is secured. It's important to understand though that ICE isn't running their schedule according to the Greyhound schedule. Sometimes the bus on which the family is confirmed has already left by the time they arrive at the station. Then a whole new set of hoops appear for the volunteer assistants to jump through – rebooking, finding a bed for the night, transport to where the bed's are located, and getting the family back to the station in time to make the connection. Remember the language barrier, too.

You can understand why the volunteers working with this Project are so key to making it all work. **This is the sort of community cohesion I had hoped to see when stepping into the role of helping to facilitate civic engagement.**

Many of these families are coming through Texas. For that reason I was pleasantly surprised to see the Dallas County Judge step up and help do things similar to what we're doing here. He's in an elected position, and when asked if he was worried about political backlash, he said this:

There's a lot of upset people, and I think elected officials on some issues can't be worried, can't put political interest ahead of public interest. When it comes to children who are being treated in an inhumane way, then you forge ahead. These children couldn't wait for the first Wednesday in November for someone to help them.

So the move out of Greyhound's coming – it'll be a good thing. What's not in sight though is an end to the steady stream of young women and their kids who are showing up here 2-3 times per day. I don't have a solution to the international parts of this, but I'm proud of my staff and the other partners in this who are working to be a part of what's showing up on our doorstep locally.

Here's a guest column I've written and submitted to the Star and the LA Times. It pretty clearly shows where my head's at on this stuff:

Tonight a child was born at University Medical Center in the City of Tucson. The mother is a migrant from Guatemala, fleeing abject poverty and physical abuse. She joins hundreds of others who have been dropped at our local Greyhound Bus station by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents with the instruction that they find their way to friends or family and within 15 days report to ICE for a deportation hearing. Her baby is now a United States citizen.

Faith based non-profits have joined with members of the community to form Project Mariposa, our organized response to receive and assist in transitioning the migrant families through Tucson. The stories I hear consistently paint the picture of women who have been subjected to domestic violence and abandonment in their home country, lied to at each border they cross about what awaits them in America, robbed and oftentimes raped during transit and left abandoned at the U.S. border by coyotes who are getting rich on this human tragedy. Shortly after having been dropped on the U.S. side, Border Patrol arrests these women and children, processes them for status and delivers them to our intake center at the Greyhound facility. They arrive confused, scared and worn out. Our volunteer group is charged by our own human-ness to receive these families with compassionate hearts and show them the love we would hope to expect were we to find ourselves in similar conditions.

I watch in disgust and amazement the protests going on in Murietta, California, and now in areas of Texas. They remind me of incidents that occurred in Selma, Alabama back in 1961 when mobs surrounded Freedom Rider busses with an ugly hatred that does not reflect the soul of who we are as a nation. In the '60s the nation recoiled from such overt displays of bigotry. We can do no less when faced with the images coming from Murietta today. We're a better and more compassionate people than that.

The women and children sitting on those busses have been victimized by gang violence in their home countries. They have fled in an effort to find a new life. They are not scholars who have studied the intricacies of the U.S. Constitution and looked for ways to evade its rules. They must sit on the busses, see the angry mobs outside and wonder where on this earth they can turn to find a simple welcoming hand that will receive them

as refugees coming from a violent land.

As a member of the Tucson City Council I'm proud to represent the residents of the City of Tucson who have stepped up and offered to be that welcoming and compassionate hand. We don't confront the broken hearts with arguments about comprehensive immigration reform, or international economic development initiatives. Those are issues for the national leaders of each of the countries involved to sort through. What these women and children need is a blanket, some food and the most basic of human kindness.

Frustrations are running deep all across the nation. We see a Federal government that is caught up in casting blame and positioning themselves for election campaigns. We see decades of dysfunctional public institutions throughout Central America, the collateral damage from which is the out-migration of their own people. The busses that are arriving in Tucson don't carry the causes of these failed institutions. They carry the effects. And those arrive at our Greyhound station as simply people looking for hope.

There's a new U.S. citizen laying in her mother's arms in a Tucson hospital tonight. Welcome to America, little one. It's my hope, and that of the Project Mariposa volunteers that by the time you're old enough to understand, the Murieta protests will be as anathema to your fellow countrymen as those that occurred in Selma are to us today.

I hope they put it into print. This isn't even an immigration issue. It's refugee/asylum.

The CBP is dropping off families like we're seeing in a Walmart parking lot in Yuma. They don't have a bus station, so over there it's 'fend for yourself.'

Psychological Impact

Were you afraid of the dark when you were a kid? My daughter was terrified of bugs – still doesn't prefer to spend time with them. What phobias did you have? While working through these families' issues, I've thought about the impact of what these children have seen on their young psyches as they grow up.

A friend of mine, Ron Richman, is involved with the Avielle Foundation. I've shared a bit about their research in the past. They study brain health. Recently, Ron shared with me some research on what forms our mental health. I tried to collate them into the situations these kids find themselves in. A few examples:

Avielle - 1. Myth/misconception: Biology is destiny. Our genes define us and our fate, and we have no control.

- Fact: Our personality and behavior are influenced by both our biology (our genetic makeup or our "nature") AND our environment (how we are "nurtured," our circumstances). Both our nature and our nurture play a role in our everyday lives, but it's not the whole story—we still can control our choices in life.
- Mariposa – these kids had no control over their life choices while witnessing the violence in their home countries.

Avielle - 2. Myth/misconception: Brain health problems can't be cured.

- Fact: Every day, new technologies and innovations are developed to understand the brain a bit more. The ability to study the brain and determine why it may not work properly is becoming more accessible every day. As we learn more and expand our ability to understand the brain, we can develop medicine and therapies to treat—and even cure—brain health problems.
- Mariposa – Will those advances come in time to meet the needs of this cohort? What about their access to the medications?

Avielle - 3. Myth/misconception: People with brain illness should be isolated and ignored because we do not understand why they behave the way they do.

- Fact: Isolating and ignoring people with any type of illness will only make the problem worse—and we will all suffer as a result.
- Mariposa – We're hopeful that the compassion being shown to these families by the volunteers is a positive step in the healing process these families need.

Avielle - 4. Myth/misconception: People who have brain illnesses are violent.

- Fact: Most people with brain illness are not violent or a danger to the public. However, brain illness can contribute to impaired judgment and an increased potential for violent behavior. To ignore the link between brain illness and violence can result in more harm than good—by not being aware of the danger and treating aggression or violent behavior in addition to the brain illness, lives might be lost that could have been saved.
- Mariposa – These kids learned violent behavior in their most formative years. Social service providers along the way need to keep in mind the possibility that they'll need some treatment to help work through latent issues.

The papers available on the topic of brain health are available through the Aviella Foundation web site. If you'd like to contact the guy who's doing that research, you can at jeremy.richman@aviellafoundation.org

And the Tucson non-profits and volunteers are making that first touch on the families' lives. Call us at the Ward office if you'd like to get involved – 791.4601. One big need is blankets. Another is juice.

More Mental Health

If you had the chance to join us at Temple Emanuel last Monday, you heard Jennie Grabel from the Fund for Civility, Respect and Understanding come and make a presentation on “Mental Health Safe Space” training. The goal is very simply to eliminate the stigma that's associated with mental illness (or “brain health” as the Aviella people would phrase it), and give participants some basic tools to use when dealing with somebody who shows signs of needing some assistance.

The training is free – and it takes about 90 minutes. We've invited Jennie and her folks to come to the Ward Office and give it to any of you who'd like to take it.

When I first proposed the idea to my staff, they announced that they were already booked to take it at a downtown location. As a child I learned the ‘mother's guilt trip’ technique (my mom was a pro at it), and so invoked the abandonment pity pitch on them.



Amy was the first to cave under the pressure. But shortly after, the rest of them couldn't take the guilt any longer and each of them cancelled their downtown engagement and so we'll all be at the Ward presentation to take part with you.

The training will take place on August 4th from 5:30 – 7pm. The techniques are intended to show ways to gain a better understanding of mental illness, how to identify a crisis situation and ways to de-escalate potentially volatile situations. Jennie and her people will bring plenty of materials that you can take with you.

In order to make sure we'll have plenty of the take-away stuff, please give us a call (791.4601) or send an email (Ward6@tucsonaz.gov) to confirm that you'll be attending. We might even get into a discussion about any treatment my staff might need to bring them back to good brain health after the trauma of guilt they went through in scheduling this event. Seeing that should be enough to get you to come.

Final South of the Border Item

A few weeks ago I pitched the Latin American Training Center screenplay competition. It was aimed at encouraging the co-production of feature films between Mexico and the U.S. The moving parties on it from here in Tucson were Visit Tucson staffers Felipe Garcia and Shelli Hall. Also included in the selection process was Kaitlin McNally Murphy from the UA Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

There were a total of 45 total submissions from both Mexico and the U.S. It's cool to note that 3 of the top 5 U.S. winners were from Tucson. Here are the top 5 in both the U.S. and Mexican contestants:

- United States:
1. **Nicolas Simonin** (Los Angeles) - *Ixchel*
 2. **Elizabeth Felix** (Tucson) - *La Vida No Vale Nada (Life is Worthless)*
 3. **David Valdez** (Tucson) - *Santas del Diablo part I*
 4. **Antonio Villagomez** (Oro Valley) - *Project Chupacabra*
 5. **Simon Donovan** (Tucson) - *The Road to Cananea*

Mexico:

1. **Carmen Pedraza** (Mexico City) - *Persiguiendo Trenes*
2. **David Garza** (Guadalupe) - *El otro lado del sueño*
3. **Miguel Valdez-Lopez** (Monterrey) - *Oliver*
4. **Matthew Sanabria** (Mexico City) - *Apollo 14*
5. **Horacio Mancilla Avalos** (Mexico City) - *El abejorro del Desierto*

There was a cash prize for the first-place winning screenplay from each country, and all of the finalists' entries will be promoted to production companies on both sides of the border. That could turn into a possible production opportunity later on.

Another big thanks to the Visit Tucson folks for helping to promote the film industry here in Tucson.

More Awards

The Arizona Commission on the Arts just awarded \$500K to a bunch of Southern Arizona arts groups. If you see him out and about, the guy to thank for this allocation of funds is State Senator Steve Farley. Without his leadership on the issue, the money may not have ended up down here.

There were 75 local organizations that benefitted from the money. I wanted to highlight those who are in Ward 6 – it shows how deeply ingrained in our mid-town ethic the arts really are. Here's that part of the list:

The Tucson Jewish Community Center (not exactly in Ward 6, but we deal with Temple Emanuel enough that I'll make the connection), UA Presents (stole Broadway in Tucson from us, but they run a good program), Catalina Magnet High School, City High School, Pistor Middle School, WAMO, ZUZI Dance Company, Az. Friends of Chamber Music, The Drawing Studio, Invisible Theater, Rogue Theater, Festival of Books, TPAC, Tucson Museum of Art, Arizona Theater Company, and The Loft.

They're all deserving and all can use an extra bump if you have some cash laying around. A couple who are in the capital campaign mode are the ATC and The Loft. Both have some amazing plans. You can check them out on their web sites.

Budget Year-End Donations

We had some money left over from our 2013 Ward Office budget that, if not allocated in another way, would simply go into the General Fund towards next year's deficit fix that we're likely be faced with again. I wanted to earmark the funds to something more meaningful than dumping it into that big pool of cash and watching its use become diluted.

There were three areas I felt deserved special notice with the money, so I asked staff to split the remaining funds in thirds. There are certain rules that govern how I can use the money, so not everything was on the table.

The Tucson Fire Foundation works to fund supplies our fire fighters need out in the field. They also help defray the costs of educational programs and other TFD related needs. Similarly, the Tucson Police Foundation buys personal protective equipment for police officers, as well as paying for other things that don't play as direct a role in the safety and health of our officers. For both the Fire and Police foundations, I asked a third of the money be earmarked for personal protective gear. That's \$6,359 each.

Over the 4th of July, Pima Animal Care Center amassed well over 100 new animals, largely strays that were spooked by the fireworks and took off. PACC was already overstuffing, so these new arrivals only added to the problem. The real answer is getting this community behind an effective spay/neuter program.

Animal Welfare Alliance of Southern Arizona (AWASA) is the County run program that is out in the community advocating for spay/neuter. The remaining \$6,359 went to their program. We're going to vote on a new animal care shelter on this November's ballot – if every pet owner did their part and got their dogs/cats fixed, we might not need to do the project. But they don't, so we do – and the money to AWASA will help to reduce the number of euthanized dogs and cats that unnecessarily end up out at the PACC facility (or Humane Society.)

Tucson Greyhound Park Injury Reports

**TUCSON GREYHOUND PARK
INJURY REPORT**

Date: 4/10/09 Greyhound Name: Debow Savage Distance: _____
 Kennel: Blue Bird Kennel Grade: _____ Race: 2
 Post Position: 6 Weight: 71.88 Sex: M Temperature: 104°F
 Track Condition _____ Est. Recovery Time _____

Location on track when injury took place: BL-100
Resp. - 0
- Epistaxis
- Bleeding from
nose
No Breathing
Heart still for

Injury: 21 Location Of Injury on Dog: 1 Time Of Injury: 2

1. Broken Back	1. Head	1. Pre-Race
2. Dropped Muscle	2. Spine	2. During Race
3. Broken Toe	3. Left Rear	3. Post Race
4. Split Web	4. Right Rear	4. Within 24 hours
5. Broken Ankle	5. Left Front	5. After 24 hours
6. Broken Stopper Bone	6. Right Front	6. Schooling
7. Broken Stifle Bone	7. Tail	
8. Torn Ligament	8. Other	
9. Broken Foot		
10. Broken Leg		
11. Sprained		
12. Sprained Ligament		
13. Sprained Hock		
14. Broken Tail		
15. Twisted Back		
16. Displaced Hock		
17. Muscle Tear		
18. Pulled Muscle		
19. Sprained Ankle		
20. Expired/Euthanized		
21. Other		

Comments: BROKEN SKULL - laceration
w/ brain coming out! D.O.A. - no treatment
Dangerous track - too wet!

Kennel Rep: [Signature] Track Vet: Paul J. Sullivan, D.V.M.

This is what injury reports from out at Tucson Greyhound Park used to look like. They showed where on the track the injury occurred, when the injury occurred and under the comments it gives a full description of what was observed. In this example, "DOA – No Treatment" is pretty self-explanatory. The reports now in use don't have nearly that level of description. And as you'll see below, in some cases they're not even completed.

In 2013, the Arizona Senate passed a bill that mandates that each month TGP must compile a list of injuries that have been reported to track vets and turn them over to the Arizona Department of Racing. Once in ADOR's hands, they become public records. The important link in that chain to note is that it's the track vets who make the report. If an injury isn't reported to the vets, it's not reported to the public.

Back in March I did a segment on KOLD in which I questioned the vague use of the phrase "pulled up" on the stewards' reports. In the segment I noted that dogs that were listed as having 'pulled up' were neither listed in injury reports, nor did they ever

race again. It's noteworthy that since that KOLD piece, the track has stopped using the phrase "pulled up" on its reports. Now they're noting "Poor Effort," to indicate the dog just, well, dogged it. No harm, no foul, no injury report.

In fact, I've now got a record of 21 TGP greyhounds that, since that news report, were listed as "Poor Effort" and who were not reported as having been injured to the track vet. With no vet report, ADOR's statistics don't reflect any of these animals as having been injured, despite the fact that they've never raced again. The description "pulled up" isn't even an option for stewards any longer. Perhaps because it left the impression that something such as a muscle tear, torn ligament or broken ankle could have been the cause of the dog 'pulling up.' Each of those appears on the injury report shown above. Better to just say the dog was having an off day.

Setting aside for a moment the concerns of Greyhound advocates, even gamblers should care about this. It's the job of ADOR to ensure the integrity of the betting odds that are used both at the track (for the few people who go to watch in person) and in off-track wagering. If any of these dogs return to race, whatever happened in their "poor effort" race is not going to be reported by the ADOR. If it wasn't an 'injury' on the night of the race, it never will be, and the gambling public will be duped into thinking the dog was just having a bad hair day at the track.

If being confined to a lousy kennel for up to 20 hours per day isn't bad enough, being forced to run on a track whose racing condition is sub-standard, and if injured treated as though it never occurred pretty much affirms what an inhumane industry this "sport" really is.

I know some media folks read this newsletter. I'd be happy to work with them to expose further this new attempt to obscure that's going on over in South Tucson.



Certificates of Participation (COPs)

I've done some lead-up on this topic, which will be a study session agenda item on August 5th. In brief summary, COPs are debt that we take on to pay for capital improvements we need to do. Since it's technically called a lease back, we don't ask the taxpayers if they approve, and the debt isn't subject to our Constitutional debt limit. Right now, the total due is over a quarter of a billion dollars. If we default on any one of the payments, all of those assets transfer in ownership from us to the trustees.

I've been advised by multiple people who should know that these are legal debt obligations. The issue I have with them is that they're unregulated in the manner that Bonds are. And the debt service is paid from the General Fund, so it competes with roads, fire protection, parks maintenance, and buying new police cars. My purpose in bringing this to the M&C in August is to suggest some controls be placed on how we use these instruments in the future.

The California Debt Advisory Commission did a comprehensive study of COPs and came up with a number of policy suggestions for how they're used. They were getting out of control over there, too. In fact, in their report, the Commission noted that many of the provisions they had put into place have their origins in bond defaults and other financial "calamities" that occurred in the past. Their goal, as is mine, was to place sound financial management practices into effect and avoid repeats of the past. Here are just a few of what they proposed.

Guideline 1: Identify the General Fund Lease Capacity

If we don't do anything else, I'd like to see us set a limit of our General Fund revenues, some % of the whole that we'll devote to annual 'lease' payments (COPs debt service). That benchmark can serve as a way for us to prioritize and plan which capital projects we'll take on, when, and which will need to go to the voters.

Guideline 4: Do Not Fund Operating Expenses with Long-Term Lease Obligations

In each of the last 3 budget cycles, we have either refinanced or restructured our COPs debt. That frees up immediate cash to use for operations. Most finance professionals strongly discourage the use of long-term debt obligations to fund current operating expenses. Ours did, too. Number one, I don't see how operations can qualify as a "lease" transaction. And number two, even if they somehow do, it's not good financial practice. We need to take restructuring off the table as a budget 'fix' from now on.

Guideline 5: Subject All Leases to Fiscal Controls

Channeling all "leases" through a central source allows us to keep an accurate watch on how deeply into debt we're getting. A centralized oversight allows us to make sure we're staying within some specified ratio

to the GF. I'd also include our enterprise COPs debt in that oversight pool since everything we fund through that instrument is paid by you, and you don't have a chance to object – or support – the purchasing decision. Pooling the debt lets us keep watch as it grows. And it lets us see how we're making progress in working down the debt.

Guideline 8: Do Not Rely Upon Volatile Repayment Sources

As I noted, our repayment source is our General Fund. We have a very limited number of ways we can add revenues, and the State has a habit of imposing new costs. So I'd say our GF is a rather volatile debt service source. With pensions hitting the GF, along with all of our Charter responsibilities (Fire, Police, Roads, Parks) we've backed ourselves into a corner when it comes to high debt obligations through our COPs. This is why setting a limit/ratio to our GF is so important for us to consider.

Guideline 13: Understand the Contractual Obligations Imposed by Lease Documents

If we don't satisfy the legal requirements of a "lease," we're in default. The way our COPs are set up is that if we default on one, all of them revert to the respective trustees. That all eggs in one basket approach may make the COPs a more attractive market instrument, but we haven't been told that was how they're structured. Knowing that should affect how we think about taking on more of them in the future – and perhaps decoupling the new ones from the existing \$260M in debt we already have on the books.

Guideline 17: Solicit Public Participation in Tax-Exempt Leasing Decisions

It's your money. The challenge in using COPs is that we're effectively saying that public participation in our decisions is not wanted. That's the wrong message to be sending. The Commission identified three ways the public could/should be included:

- Schedule public hearings on the Capital Budget – we do that, but I think the COPs effect is diluted in that discussion.
- Establish a Citizen's Oversight Committee on public finance – maybe make more effective use of our existing Independent Audit and Performance Commission?
- Consider an Advisory vote on controversial projects – like I said, it's your money.

There are plenty more suggestions that came from the Commission. I chose these because they're pretty straightforward and I'll be asking for staff input on how important, or not, they feel these changes are. Each budget cycle is a chore. If we can avoid tapping the GF even more deeply, it makes the lifting of the 'chore' that much less troubling.

The item is still a ways out, but I wanted to begin sharing with you now so if you hear any grumbling about what the City's planning on doing, you can make it clear that my motive is to give you a voice in determining how we spend your money.

2015 School Safety Program Grants

In June, the Arizona Department of Education announced some School Safety Program Grants. Both Amphi and TUSD are receiving funding for School Resource Officers. The Grants are for 3 years.

SRO's are an important link between TPD and our youth. They're on select campuses, developing personal interactions with the kids, building trust and rapport with them. We don't have the funds to support the positions any longer, so these State Grants are important.

There are 9 schools that will get the funding. In Amphi School District, it's Amphi High School. In TUSD the schools include Booth-Fickett Middle School, Pueblo High School, Catalina Magnet High School, Santa Rita High School, Cholla High School, Tucson High School, Palo Verde High School and Utterback Middle School.

The Program Grants provide funding to the schools that they use to reimburse TPD for the personnel costs we absorb for the SROs. We're still working out from under Grant funding we got a few years ago that required us to retain the workers hired under the Grant for some specified period of time. These Grants don't come with that obligation. Some of the positions will be new, and some will be us reassigning existing employees to fill the slots.

These are important positions. When we get back on our fiscal feet, we should look into ways to keep TPD in these roles in our schools on a permanent basis, beyond the 3 years of this program.

More TPD

Arizona Revised Statutes 13.3101 defines a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm. Here are the relevant sections that provide the basis on which a court can revoke a person's right to possess a gun:

13-3101. Definitions

7. Prohibited possessor"means any person:

(a) Who has been found to constitute a danger to self or to others or to be persistently or acutely disabled or gravely disabled pursuant to court order under section 36-540, and whose right to possess a firearm has not been restored pursuant to section 13-925.

(b) Who has been convicted within or without this state of a felony or who has been adjudicated delinquent for a felony and whose civil right to possess or carry a gun or firearm has not been restored.

(c) Who is at the time of possession serving a term of imprisonment in any correctional or detention facility.

(d) Who is at the time of possession serving a term of probation pursuant to a conviction for a domestic violence offense as defined in section 13-3601 or a felony offense, parole, community supervision, work furlough, home arrest or release on any other basis or who is serving a term of probation or parole pursuant to the interstate compact under title 31, chapter 3, article 4.1.

(e) Who is an undocumented alien or a nonimmigrant alien traveling with or without documentation in this state for business or pleasure or who is studying in this state and who maintains a foreign residence abroad. This subdivision does not apply to:

(i) Nonimmigrant aliens who possess a valid hunting license or permit that is lawfully issued by a state in the United States.

(ii) Nonimmigrant aliens who enter the United States to participate in a competitive target shooting event or to display firearms at a sports or hunting trade show that is sponsored by a national, state or local firearms trade organization devoted to the competitive use or other sporting use of firearms.

(iii) Certain diplomats.

(iv) Officials of foreign governments or distinguished foreign visitors who are designated by the United States Department of State.

(v) Persons who have received a waiver from the United States attorney general.

During the opening statement portion of the July 7th Mental Health forum, I shared the details of a person who has TPD on edge. The guy is heavily armed, has his home set up as a fortress and is convinced he's under surveillance by the Feds. It's a situation in which I believe TPD should be able to petition the Court to have his weapons seized until he has undergone successful mental health treatment – or at the very least until a Court judges him competent to possess. If we're sending out "Safety Alerts" to our officers, it strikes me that we should at least have the ability to petition the Court to allow us to seize the person's guns until we're sure he's not a public safety risk. If the Court disagrees, so be it. But right now, all we do is warn ourselves to be careful with the guy, or guys like him.

First, I should say that our City Attorney might tell me that we're pre-empted by the State from adopting a local ordinance that addresses this. ARS Section 13.3108 prohibits us from the following:

A. Except as provided in subsection G of this section, a political subdivision of this state shall not enact any ordinance, rule or tax relating to the transportation, possession, carrying, sale,

transfer, purchase, acquisition, gift, devise, storage, licensing, registration, discharge or use of firearms or ammunition or any firearm or ammunition components or related accessories in this state.

Here's my pitch to CA Rankin and his folks: the State has already defined who's prohibited, one portion of which is a court having found the person a danger to self or others. I want a local Ordinance that allows TPD to act on their suspicions, and if the court agrees, we have the right to seize the weapons until the court restores that right.



During the past month, at least 4 States I'm aware of have begun to pursue gun seizure laws under a judge's order following the presentation of evidence from a police officer that the person is a danger to himself or others.

Those are State level initiatives. I'm not comfortable assuming the Arizona State Legislature will join that parade. I've asked for a legal opinion as to our ability to do something similar on a local basis.

Tucson is a Charter City. We're independent of any State legislative interference in connection with subjects that are of solely local concern. The safety of our constituents is a local issue. Our Charter authority and responsibility is to

adopt and enforce rules that help to maintain, protect and promote public health and safety. I've asked our legal folks to look into adopting something locally that's consistent with our responsibility to protect the public – and our police officers.

We already have a Crisis Response Center to which a court can refer suspects. Unfortunately, those referrals do not come with the authority to seize weapons pending resolution of the events that led to the referral. That's the link I'm asking our City Attorney's people to look into.

The only argument our State gun-rights folks could put forward is that they don't want local law enforcement to have the authority to petition a court to seize weapons, even in cases where suspects are deemed by all involved to be a danger to themselves or others. That's a position I'm not sure I'd want to run for election on if it was me.

I expect the usual suspects to push back. I also hope to hear some creative input from our attorneys.

McKale Update

Boxes filled with seat parts are all over the arena. On the floor you can see the assembly of the retractable bleachers is moving along. The locker rooms, equipment room and lounge spaces are all equally construction zones. Mortenson has crews working largely around the clock to keep things on the tight schedule we have to work with.

Volleyball is the initial push. We're aiming for a September 1st finish date for lower bowl seating, the floor, lighting and locker facilities for the team. I know. That's 6 weeks from now. Looking at the photo above shows that



there's a lot of work to do between now and then. It'll happen.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Events Calendar

What's happening this week in the Downtown, 4th Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .

Everything Lunar: Celebrating the Past, Exploring the Future

The Lunar and Planetary Laboratory is hosting a free public open house on Sunday, July 20, the 45th anniversary of the Apollo Moon landing, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Kuiper Space Sciences Building, 1629 E. University Blvd. (next door to Flandrau Science Center).

There will be exhibits on the Moon, lectures, and lots of great activities for children.

Playtime at MOCA 265 S. Church Ave

On July 19th, the Museum of Contemporary Art will be hosting Playtime, a program that lets kids of all ages learn through play in an intergenerational, interactive environment. Adults are welcome as well and have the opportunity learn about art and art history. The event is 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission for children under 17 is free and adult admission is \$8.

<http://www.moca-tucson.org>

Connect in the City

110 merchants in the downtown area have united to create the Connected in the City Saver Pass. Purchase one of the six different "passes" at any of the participating businesses or online for \$5 to access discounts at any of the participants. Participating areas include: 4th Ave, Downtown, Maingate Square, Mercado San Augustin.

<http://tucsonsummer.com/>

Ongoing

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

<http://www.rialtotheatre.com/>

The Rogue Theatre at The Historic Y, 300 East University Blvd

<http://www.theroguetheatre.org/main.htm>

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Hotel Congress, 311 E. Congress St.

<http://hotelcongress.com/>

Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway

www.loftcinema.com/

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

Jewish History Museum, 564 S. Stone Ave.

The Jewish History Museum presents “Skullcaps and Schul Hats, focusing on two family collections of 1940’s head coverings. The museum urges you to visit and learn about the fading tradition of Schul Hats and the enduring tradition of “Keeping the Kippot”, as well as Tucson Jewish history.

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Children’s Museum Tucson, 200 S. 6th Ave.

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 10:00am - 5:00pm

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Arizona State Museum, 1013 E. University Blvd

November 9, 2013, through July 2015 Curtis Reframed: The Arizona Portfolios

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

UA Mineral Museum, 1601 E University Blvd

Ongoing “100 Years of Arizona’s Best: The Minerals that Made the State”

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave.

Explore regional transportation history, and see a freight trains passing by, or ring the locomotive bell at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum every Saturday, year round.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 1100am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturdays: 10:00am - 4:00pm

<http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org/>

Sacred Machine Museum & Curiosity Shop, 245 E Congress St

<http://sacredmachine.com/>

Meet Me at Maynards, 311 E. Congress (north entrance on Toole)

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Hotel Congress Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712

<http://www.tucsonbotanical.org/>

Friday Night Live! at Main Gate Square, 814 E University Blvd

Saturday nights, 7:00-9:00, stellar jazz performances.

Cinema La Placita 110 S. Church Avenue

Every Thursday evening at 7:30, May through August, hundreds of Tucsonans enjoy the cool summer evenings and a pleasant summertime event. \$3 per person includes popcorn!

HAROLD AND MAUDE (1971) GP

Starring Bud Cort, Ruth Gordon and Vivian Pickles.

Young, rich, and obsessed with death, Harold finds himself changed forever when he meets lively septuagenarian Maude at a funeral.

The August 2014 movie schedule at Cinema La Placita will be chosen by the audience votes! Voters at the movies can cast their votes for one of two potential movie schedules to appear in August.

Voting will also occur on the film series' Facebook page.

